

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement formal Figures 13(a), 13(b), 14(a) and 14(b) are submitted concurrently herewith under a separate cover letter.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objections contained in the Office Action of September 15, 2006 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings due to various informalities. In particular, the Examiner asserted that Figures 13 and 14 should be re-labeled as Figures 13(a), 13(b), 14(a) and 14(b). In view of this objection, new formal Figures 13(a), 13(b), 14(a), and 14(b) have now been prepared and submitted herewith. Furthermore, a Letter Regarding Proposed Drawing Amendments, indicating the changes made to the original figures, has also been prepared and submitted herewith. Because the changes made to the drawings are merely formal in nature and no new matter has been added, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the new formal figures. In view of the submission of the new formal drawings, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections to the drawings have been overcome.

The Examiner also objected to the specification as requiring separate references to Figures 13(a), 13(b), 14(a) and 14(b). Thus, the entire specification and abstract have now been reviewed and revised in order to address the Examiner's objections to the specification, and to make various additional editorial corrections. As the revisions are quite extensive, the amendments to the specification and abstract have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification and abstract. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is thus respectfully requested. In view of these amendments to the specification, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections to the specification have been overcome.

In item 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-11 are allowed. Although the allowed claims have now been amended so as to place the claims in a preferred form, it is submitted that none of these amendments affect the scope of the claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are still in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Masami KANO

By: 

W. Douglas Hahm
Registration No. 44,142
Attorney for Applicant

WDH/ck
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
December 7, 2006